



NIRB File No.: 25XN030

Related to NIRB File No.: 24YN008

Commission File No.: 150698

Related to Commission File No.: 149366 & 150174

July 3, 2025

Justin McDonell
Government of Nunavut – Community and Government Services
PO Box 1000, Station 200
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Sent via email: jmcdonell@gov.nu.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Government of Nunavut's "Qikiqtarjuaq Marine Infrastructure Project" proposal

Dear Justin McDonell:

On April 15, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Government of Nunavut's "Qikiqtarjuaq Marine Infrastructure Project" proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. The Commission noted that the project proposal is significant modification to a previous conformity determination issued in 2024 because of the construction of a deep seaport.

On June 23, 2025, the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent. The NIRB notes that previous field studies and surveys were screened by the NIRB under file no. 24YN008 and has determined that current proposed activities are a significant modification to the previously assessed activities and have assigned it file number **25XN030** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal, and by copy of this letter, **invites interested parties and municipalities potentially affected by the proposal to comment directly to the Nunavut Impact Review Board.**

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/126185.

Project:	Qikiqtarjuaq Marine Infrastructure Project
Location:	Qikiqtani region, Municipal Boundaries of the Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to construct a deep-sea port facility in Qikiqtarjuaq, in order to improve marine infrastructure in the community and provide facilities to support the fishing industry and marine traffic in Davis Strait and Baffin Bay.
Project Proposed Timeline:	<u>2026 to 2029</u> : construction of deep-sea port facility during the open-water season. <u>2030 to 2080</u> : operations of harbour and facilities.

According to the current project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Construction of a new deep-sea port to accommodate commercial, scientific and tourist vessels. Components to include:
 - 75 metre (m) long closed-face marginal wharf structure with armour stone protection with 10 m depth at low tide, and 18,000 square metres (m²) of laydown area;
 - Crane for offloading cargo;
 - Wastewater receiving systems;
 - VHF radio communications station;
 - Freezer container facilities;
 - Operations and security office;
 - Power distribution and utility installation;
- Development of supporting infrastructure:
 - Temporary materials stockpile areas;
 - Temporary staging/laydown areas;
 - Dredging and disposal of dredged materials (may be repurposed for construction);
- Development of one (1) quarry site within the municipality:
 - Use two (2) drills for quarrying purposes;
 - Use of explosives to develop quarry;
 - Crushing and screening of blasted rock to produce various granular materials;
 - Stockpiling of aggregates until needed;
- Use of heavy equipment for transport of quarry materials and construction activities (rock truck, front-end loader, compactor, bulldozer, grader, spud barge/derrick, material scow, rock crusher);
- Use of tugs, work boats, scows, and a barge for marine construction;
- Daily transport of personnel and equipment to and from the project site;
- Daily refueling and servicing of major mobile equipment by fuel/service truck sourced from community fuel;

- Use of chemical and hazardous materials, including paint, explosives, propane, lube and oils;
- Daily usage of up to 6 cubic metres of water from existing community water supply for project activities;
- Development of a temporary camp to accommodate up to 30 personnel construction workers;
- Construction of a 275 m access road to connect the new port facility to existing municipal roads;
- Use of existing roads to access construction areas, camp, quarry and stockpile areas;
- Combustible and non-combustible wastes to be disposed at community landfill;
- Use of local accommodations and facilities;
- Direct local hire of community members in the construction of the facility;
- Ongoing community consultations regarding the proposed project; and,
- Operation and ongoing regular facility maintenance.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

The NIRB has identified that the previously assessed environmental, geotechnical investigation, terrestrial surveys, marine surveys, archaeological assessment and Inuit Qaujimagatugangit gathering to support the detailed design phase of the construction of the deep-sea port facility in Qikiqtarjuaq will not be considered in the current assessment as the works and activities were previously assessed under NIRB File No. 24YN008 and continues to apply under the previous approvals that may be in force. Further information on the activities previously approved can be assessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125883.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/126185 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application*
- *NIRB Online Application Form in English*
- *Non-technical Project Summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Letter to the Commission regarding Application for Land Use Conformity Review*
- *Qikiqtarjuaq Marine Infrastructure Project Proposal*
- *Final Terrestrial Baseline Report*
- *Letter of Support from the Municipality of Qikiqtarjuaq (February 2024)*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by the Government of Nunavut's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 25, 2025**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca, via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/126185.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at 1-866-233-3033 or femingak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

(original signed by:)

Francis Emingak
Screening Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English, and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English, and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List
Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq
Qikiqtarjuaq Hunters and Trappers Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Dustin Fredlund, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut – Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut – Economic development and Transportation
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut, Environmental Assessment and Regulations
William Patch, Government of Nunavut, Community Services
Randy Mercer, Government of Nunavut, Community Services
Ken Wasylyshen, Government of Nunavut, Community Services
Olivier Forbes-Bouillon, Government of Nunavut, Community Services
Caroline Whittle, Government of Nunavut, Culture and Heritage
Adam Pollock, Government of Nunavut, Culture and Heritage
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Bradely Pirie, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Adrian Paradis, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Peter Unger, Natural Resources Canada
Pierre-Olivier Emond, Natural Resources Canada
Transport Canada
Lootie Toomasie, Arctic Fisheries Alliance
Dennis Nauyavik, Arctic Fisheries Alliance
Chris Flanagan, Baffin Fisheries